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INFORM ON ELECTROPET

Colombia

SUBJECT Comando Liberal Popular Gaitanista

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- 1. The Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) is in a very confused state at present and the party leaders have not as yet been able to decide upon a definite course of action to be followed with relation to the current election campaign. As a result of the continued rebuffs of the Liberal leaders, it was announced that the PCC would wage an absolutely independent election campaign, proposing their own election lists in every locality. This, however, because of the numerical weakness of the Party, is very impractical and would result in their failure to obtain any electoral positions, with the one exception of the municipality of Viota, Department of Cundinamarca, where success is assured.
- 2. Despite previous declarations, it is now reported that the PCC leaders have entered into a secret agreement with Carlos H. Pareja for the formation of a "popular liberal" group which would submit its own list of candidates in the June 1949 elections as a division of the Liberal Party. In presenting the list of candidates, the group will argue that under the electoral laws of Colombia, a vote for its candidates will not prejudice the possibility of a Liberal triumph but will make such a triumph more certain. A previous pact made by Jorge Uribe Marquez, as the leader of the "Comando Liberal Popular," with the Liberal Party directorate, was accepted by all Liberal leaders, with the exception of Pareja, who is attempting to form a dissident leftist Liberal group, to be known as the "Comando Liberal Popular Caitanista" (CLPG).
- 3. The new CLPG, under Pareja, has established an office in the Edificio Faux, Carrera 7 and Avenida Jimerez de Quesada, Bogota, and is making plans for an intense agitation carpaign among the followers of Jorge Eliecer Caitan, who, it is believed, would not vote for the regular Liberal Party candidates. The proposed program of the CLPG was set forth in an unsigned remorandum which Pareja reportedly delivered in person to both Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, and to Augusto Duran Ospino, Secretary Ceneral of the Partido Comunista Obrero (PCO).
- 4. The program of the CLPG is almost identical with the Communist program and includes the following points:
  - Mationalization of large industrial concerns, and of the banks and credit institutions.

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- b. Formation of a Latin American organization in opposition to the Organization of American States, which is described as an instrument of Yankee intervention in Latin America.
- c. Coordination of the Latin American labor rovement under the Confederacion de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL). This would require reorganization and reorientation of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC). Pareja has stated that some time ago, after his return from Mexico City, where he discussed this problem with Vicente Lombardo Toledano, he had recommended such a reorganization in talks with CTC leaders but that his suggestion had not been put into effect.
- 5. It is reported that Pareja's group includes many former members of the Partido Socialista Democratico (PSD) who left that partyat the same time as Diego Montana Cuellar, which suggests the possibility that Montana Cuellar may later join the CLPG. Alejandro Mayorga, a former member of the PSD, holds the position of Secretary of Agitation and Propaganda in the CLPG. It is noted that the organizational set-up of the CLPG follows the Communist Party model.

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